

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 9-13 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 are pending and under consideration.

ADVISORY ACTION

In the Advisory Action mailed December 20, 2007, the Examiner noted that previously submitted arguments were not persuasive and the pending claims of the present application still stand rejected. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Frucco (EP 0 464 776) (hereinafter "Frucco"); claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Frucco in view of Uhlin (US 5,987,935) (hereinafter "Uhlin"); and claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Frucco.

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a key input unit to receive washing courses according to materials of the laundry load... the control unit operates the pump according to ON-OFF periods corresponding to the washing courses." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 5.

The Examiner relied on Frucco to show this feature of claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner relied on the disclosure in column 4 of Frucco where it is discussed that the electronic control unit 17 is also capable of automatically determining the amount of laundry placed in the drum, since the water absorption capacities of different types of fabric have previously been stored in the memory of the electronic control unit after having been determined experimentally. On the base of the thus determined informations, the electronic control unit automatically controls the machine to execute the selected laundering program in accordance with the characteristics and the amount of the fabrics of the laundry to be laundered by suitably modifying the various parameters of the program (duration of the various laundering and rinsing phases, amount of liquid detergents to be supplied to the tub etc.) to thereby optimize the consumption of water, detergents and electric energy used for laundering the respective fabrics. Frucco, 4:28-4:44.

The Examiner also notes that Frucco discusses in column 2 that a user may execute "any selected laundering program." Frucco, 2:46.

However, it is respectfully submitted that these sections of Frucco, nor any other, obviate the technical feature of claim 1 of a key input unit to receive washing courses according to **materials** of the laundry load. As noted in the respective Office Actions, Frucco does not discuss a key pad. Further, Frucco does not address selecting laundry courses based on materials of the laundry load. Specifically, Frucco only discusses selecting laundry courses without disclosing that the laundry courses can be selected based on material.

Claims 2 and 6-8 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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